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Message Text

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66
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 OPR-02

A-01 /084 W
---------- 129546
O R 132300Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7954
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
SOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8302

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS ASEC EC
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT #2 ON ECUADOREAN NATIONWIDE STRIKE: 5 PM EST

REF: QUITO 8298

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SITUATION IN QUITO, GUAYAQUIL, AND, SO FAR AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, REMAINS QUIET. THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE IN QUITO, BUT NO SERIOUS CLASHES. NO EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ATTACK AMERICAN FACILITIES OR US CITIZENS SINCE SITREP #1. UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT OTHERWISE, EMBASSY'S NEXT REPORT ON THE GENERAL STRIKE WILL BE A WRAP-UP FRIDAY MORNING. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON, SMALL GROUPS OF STU-
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DENTS AT QUITO'S CATHOLIC AND CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES, PLUS A

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HANDFUL OF OTHER SCHOOLS, HAVE JOUSTED WITH POLICE. THE
LATTER HAVE USED TEARGAS TO DISPERSE THEM, WITH NO SER-
IOUS CLASHES OCCURRING, ALTHOUGH SOME SHOTS WERE FIRED
IN THE VICINITY OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL SCHOOL.
WE HAVE THUS FAR HEARD NO REPORTS OF ANY CASUALTIES DUR-
ING THE COURSE OF THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE, ALTHOUGH BY THE
END OF THE DAY SOME BROKEN BONES AND OTHER MINOR INJURIES
WILL PROBABLY BE REPORTED.

3. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE WAS FAIRLY GOOD.
ESTIMATES OF OFFICE, BUSINESS AND FACTORY CLOSURES RANGE
FROM 75 PER CENT TO 95 PER CENT; SECRETARY GENERAL OF ADMINIS-
TRATION, GENERAL BOLIVAR LOPEZ HERMANN ANNOUNCED ON RADIO THAT ALL
GOE OFFICES WERE OPEN, BUT THE ABSENCE OF MUNICIPAL TRANS-
PORTATION (APART FROM TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS) PREVENTED MANY
WORKERS FROM GOING TO WORK. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS AND
OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL, PUBLIC UTIL-
ITIES (WATER, POWER, AND TELEPHONES) HAVE FUNCTIONED NOR-
MALLY THOUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ALSO, ACCORDING TO RADIO
REPORTS, ECUADOR'S LAND FRONTIERS WITH COLOMBIA AND PERU
HAVE STAYED OPEN.

4. LABOR LEADERS SEEM TO BE PLEASED WITH THE EFFECT OF THE
STRIKE, AND A RADIO INTERVIEW AT 4 P.M. QUOTED THEM AS
SAYING "WE HAVE SUCCEEDED -- THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM
HAVE SUFFERED A CRUEL REVERSE. THE WORKERS OF ECUADOR
HAVE ENJOYED A HEROIC SUCCESS."

5. TWO MEETINGS OF WORKERS AND STUDENTS IN QUITO WERE
EARLIER REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR 6 P.M.: ONE AT CENTRAL
UNIVERSITY, AND ONE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA IN FRONT OF THE
NATIONAL THEATRE. HOWEVER, NEWS BROADCASTS AROUND 4:30 P.M.
QUOTED AN UNIDENTIFIED LABOR LEADER AS SAYING THE LABOR LEADER-
SHIP WAS NOT GOING TO ATTEND THE MEETING; CLAIMING PEACEFUL
INTENTIONS, THE LABOR LEADERS DID NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED
IN ANYTHING SMACKING OF "CONFRONTATION." THIS SAME
UNIDENTIFIED LABOR REPRESENTATIVE SAID WORKERS HAD MADE
THEIR POINT AND THE STRIKE WOULD END ON SCHEDULE AT 6 P.M.;
WORKERS SHOULD DISBAND AND GO HOME, AND NOT LET "OPPORTUNISTS"
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.
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6. IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY WILL
SUBMIT A FINAL WRAP-UP FRIDAY MORNING.
BREWSTER

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